

HAWAII ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

VISION STATEMENT

To provide the Assemblies of
God General Council with an
exemplary District displaying
unity in diversity as we uphold
and fulfill the Hawaii State
Motto:

*“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka’ Aina
I Ka Pono O Iesu Kristo”*

*“The life of the land is perpetuated by the
righteousness of Jesus Christ.”*

We will:

Be wired in worship

Be Diligent in Discipleship

Have Fun in Fellowship

Be Empowered in Evangelism

CONSTITUTION

of the

HAWAII ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

REVISED: April 13-15, 2010

STATE OF HAWAII

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Constitution and Bylaws
of the
HAWAII ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

State of Hawaii

CONSTITUTION

Constitutional Declaration

We Believe:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshiped by man, and (3) to build a body of believers in the image of HIS SON, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the Body, the Church (*ecclesia*) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason-for-being of the Hawaii Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That the Hawaii Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith in the State of Hawaii to be known as the Hawaii Assemblies of God, a District within The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "Assemblies of God" whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work and business for God; so that results of our efforts may be conserved, and assemblies established and develop along the line of our distinctive testimony, and to disapprove unscriptural methods in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is: *Hawaii Assemblies of God Inc.*, which refers to the legal entity.

The term *Hawaii Assemblies of God* refers to the entire constituency.

The term *District Council* refers to the sessions of the corporation.

ARTICLE II. DISTRICT SECTIONS

Section 1 For the purpose of aiding the pursuance of district business, the territory of this District Council shall be divided into a minimum of five (5) geographical sections and additional Ethnic Sections as deemed necessary, and each section shall have one representative on the District Presbytery.

Section 2 The District Council shall determine the Sections of this District.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The **HAWAII ASSEMBLIES OF GOD** is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreement voluntarily entered into by its members and shall be known as a Fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall be:

1. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
2. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
3. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
4. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
5. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
6. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
7. To approve scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Article IX and Article X of The General Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws.
8. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the production of its work.

ARTICLE V. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall represent as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being, as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

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ARTICLE VI. TENETS OF FAITH
(STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS)

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing, I Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

The Adorable Godhead

(a) Terms Defined:

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with the Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity, or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead:

Christ taught a distinction of person in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3-4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

Accordingly, therefore there is that in the Father which constitutes Him, the **Father** and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him **the Son** and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead are in the state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His Name one (John 1:18, 15:26, 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

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(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead:

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; John 8:17-18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ:

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ*, is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3)

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us:

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who, because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God With Us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelations 1:13,17).

(g) The Title, Son of God:

Since the name "*Immanuel*" embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man*, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the order of eternity, and the title *Son of Man* to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ:

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22-23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord:

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son:

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only

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the express duty of all in Heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22-23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelations 5:6-14; Philipians 2:8-9; Revelations 7:9-10, 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philipians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also, spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

a. Conditions to Salvation: Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

b. The Evidences of Salvation: The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence of all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water: The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4).

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b. Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues, in this instance, is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; Romans 8:1-2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son,

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and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Corinthians 12:13).

c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:28, 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3-4).

b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12-14).

c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20); (2) worship of God (John 4:23-24); and, (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11, 16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51-52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 27:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21-22; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27), and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

15. The Final Judgment

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There will be a final judgment, in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged, according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

The District Council of the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its district office and officers, sectional presbyters and ministry leaders.

Section 1. To the General Council and Other District Councils

The Hawaii Assemblies of God is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; therefore, the principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of The Assemblies of God, are the principles which shall govern this District. Furthermore, the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall have a cooperative, working relationship with other District Councils in matters of mutual concern.

Section 2. To Local Assemblies

The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall promote and establish new works as it deems necessary and recognizes the right of any local church, holding similar Tenets of Faith to apply for affiliation. All local churches received into the Fellowship shall enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of this affiliation as outlined under the Constitution and Bylaws. The fact that a sovereign local assembly is voluntarily affiliated with the District or the General Council, shall not infringe upon its individual right to conduct its own business.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Hawaii Assemblies of God

The General Council of the Assemblies of God recognizes as voting members at its Council meeting (every 2 years), all ordained and licensed ministers holding current fellowship certificate and one representative from churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies. All District Affiliated churches must apply to the General Council for their Certificate of Affiliation for voting privileges.

The voting membership of The Hawaii Assemblies of God consist of all ordained, licensed, certified minister, and such delegates as may be elected by the Assemblies to represent them at the District Council.

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Section 2. Assemblies of God Churches

The membership of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ministers of the Assemblies of God and all other persons who are members of churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and its District Council.

Section 3. Ministers

a. All Ordained Ministers holding accredited fellowship certificates with The General Council, having their permanent residence within the territory of this District (except evangelist, district ministers serving at headquarters, those teaching at or attending college or Bible school, serving as missionaries, retired ministers, or those serving in the armed services or chaplaincy), is considered members of The Hawaii Assemblies of God.

b. All Licensed and Certified Ministers who hold accredited certificates issued by the General Council and those who transfers from other districts and have been accepted, shall be recognized as members of this district.

Section 4. Local Assemblies

All General Council, District Affiliated, and District Dependent churches are considered to be member churches. Each assembly has the right of representation at the District Council, according to the provision in the District Council Bylaws.

Section 5. Voting Constituency at Hawaii District Council

The voting constituency at district council shall consist of all members of the Hawaii Assemblies of God holding current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches that are district affiliated and or are district dependent who are also present and registered, each church being entitled to one delegate. A senior pastor of a district affiliated or district dependent church and who is not credentialed, can only represent their church at this District Council as its delegate and having one vote.

ARTICLE IX. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

The District Council shall elect its own officers, and arrange for its own meetings. It shall be amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine, and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have District Council endorsement.

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. **Officers and term of office.** The executive officers shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary and the

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District Treasurer, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future; such members to be elected at the District Council. Their term of office shall begin 30 days after the date of election, and shall continue for 2 years or until a successor qualifies.

Section 2. General Presbytery

a. The General Presbytery shall be composed of individuals of maturity, experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work in their respective fields. The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Council General Presbytery by three members of the Executive Presbytery – the District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary.

Section 3. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary, the District Treasurer and each Sectional Presbyter in this District as follows: Big Island, Kauai, Maui County, Oahu-Central/Leeward, Oahu-Metro/Windward and the Samoan Section. The District Presbytery shall have the authority to formulate an Ethnic Section as the need arises or disband an Ethnic Section for the welfare of the churches involved and the District Council with approval by the voting constituency. The new Ethnic Section shall select their Sectional Presbyter.

Section 4. Sectional Presbyters

a. **Composition and term of office.** There shall be one presbyter for each of the sections in the Hawaii District, to be elected by their respective section and ratified by the District Council. Their term of office shall continue for 2 years or until a successor qualifies.

Section 5. Department Officers

There shall be directors for the Christian Education, Hawaii Youth Ministries, HonorBound Men of Promise, Young Adult, Women's Ministries, U. S. (Home) Missions and Foreign Missions, and such other departments as may be authorized in the future. Such officers shall be selected as outlined in the Bylaws. (U. S. (Home) Missions is currently a part of the Assistant Superintendent's portfolio.) The term of office shall continue for 2 years or until a successor qualifies.

Section 6. Honorary Presbyters

An honorary member may be chosen by their constituents at the District Council, from among those ministers who have served on the District Presbytery for fifteen (15) years or more.

Section 7. Non-Liability

It shall be the duty of every officer in exercising the power and discretion vested

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in them by the Constitution and Bylaws to act to the best of their ability in the interests of the membership as a whole. Subject to compliance by each officer to the foregoing, The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall indemnify and hold harmless any person who shall serve at any time as an officer, to which such person shall become subject by reason of their being or having been an officer, or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken or omitted by them while serving as such officer, and shall reimburse such person for all legal and other expenses (other than amounts paid in settlement where full disclosure of the terms of settlement have not been made known to and approved by the District Council) reasonably incurred by them in connection with any such claim or liability. The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall have the right to defend such officer against any claim or liability for which the officer has a right to indemnification.

The rights accruing to any person under the foregoing provisions of this Section 7, shall not exclude any other right to which they may be lawfully entitled, nor shall anything herein contained restrict the right of the corporation to indemnify or reimburse such person in any proper case even though not specifically herein provided for. The Hawaii Assemblies of God, its officers and agents shall be fully protected in taking any action or making any payment under this Section 7 or in refusing so to do, in reliance upon the advice of counsel.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meeting

A regular meeting (or stated meeting) of the District Council of The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall meet annually to conduct its business affairs. The time, place, and other pertinent information to be announced by written notice is sent to each member by the District Office at least 90 days prior to convening.

Section 2. Special Meeting

A special meeting (*or called meeting*) is a separate session of a society held at a time different from that of any regular meeting, and convened only to consider one or more items of business specified in the call of the meeting. The district superintendent with the approval of the presbytery can call a special meeting, and that the superintendent shall call a special meeting at the written request of at least 25 percent of credentialed ministers in the district who are current and in good standing. The time, purpose, and place, are to be announced by written notice to each member by the District Office at least ten (10) days prior to convening. (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, pgs. 89-90.)

ARTICLE XI. DISTRICT COUNCIL

Section 1. Membership

Membership in the Hawaii District Council shall be determined by the District's Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Area of Supervision

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The District Council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Hawaii Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreement between the General Council and the Hawaii District Council.

Section 3. Language Section

A foreign language-speaking group may be recognized as a section of the Hawaii Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for language section in the Bylaws. The territory of such a section is confined to ministry among certain language groups, and its geographical areas of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more district councils. (General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 5, page 104-106.)

Section 4. Credentialing Authority

The district shall have the authority to examine and present candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed or ordained ministers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. The applications of such candidates shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for presentation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final review and issuance of the ministerial credential if the qualifications prescribed by Article VII of the Bylaws are satisfied. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as shall be prescribed by the General Presbytery unless exception is provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Areas of Authority

The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.

Section 6. Relationship with the General Council

The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall not violate the Constitution or Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In the prosecution of its work, the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is unalterably dedicated. It shall be amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the discipline of ministers.

ARTICLE XII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council Affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE XI, XII

a. Requirements for Affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with this District Council.
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body.
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and this district council.

b. Relationship to and Support of the General Council and District Councils. A General Council affiliated Assembly must cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and this District Council and may send delegates to the General Council and District Council.

c. Right of Self-government (Sovereign Rights). Each General Council Affiliated Assembly (Sovereign Assembly) has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its Constitution or Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

d. Subordinate in Matters of Doctrine and Conduct. A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct, and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, and have the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article IX of the General Council Bylaws.)

e. Right of Appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE XII

Section 2. District Council Affiliated and District Dependent Assemblies

a. The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall make provision for district council affiliated or district dependent assemblies, which shall be under the supervision of the District Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Hawaii Assemblies of God Constitution and Bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

b. These Assemblies shall be held under the general supervision of the District Presbytery, which shall provide for pastoral care, in cooperation with the pastor in charge, appoint the necessary officers, and hold title to property, etc., until such time as the Assembly gives evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition of sovereignty. Such assemblies shall be given a Certificate of Affiliation with the District Council. They shall maintain a current roster of members.

c. Dependent assemblies desiring sovereignty shall request the same on a form provided by this District Secretary, which shall be acted upon by the Presbytery. Assemblies showing sufficient maturity as well as financial and numerical strength shall receive recognition.

Section 3 Parent Affiliated Assemblies

Provision shall be made by this district council for Parent Affiliated Assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws, or its bylaws.

Section 4. New Works

New works (churches) shall be under the supervision of the District Presbytery, which shall serve as the Home Missions Board. They shall provide assistance to the pastor in the organization and compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Section 5. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by this District Council and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution and Article VI. The Hawaii Assemblies of God Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with this District Council and the General Council on a temporary basis (4 year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the District Council Executive Presbytery in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with this District Council and the General Council.

Section 6. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

All Assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

CONSTITUTION –ARTICLE XIII, XIV

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION

The assets of the Hawaii Assemblies of God, Inc., a State of Hawaii corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefits of any private person or persons but the said property, real or chattel shall revert to The General Council of the Assemblies of God which are exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The said General Council shall forthright have full authority to use or disburse the property at its discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the General Council, the proceeds derived there from, shall be used by the General Council for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any annual meeting of the District Council of the Hawaii Assemblies of God, provided the proposed amendment has been first submitted to the District Presbytery for consideration sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and a copy mailed to each member of the Hawaii District Council of the Assemblies of God at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present, registered and voting shall be necessary for adoption (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition).

OUR GOAL

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BYLAWS

of the

HAWAII

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED: April 13-15, 2010

HONOLULU, HAWAII

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BYLAWS
of the
HAWAII
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

ARTICLE I - PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

Section 1. Rules of Order

a. The work of the Hawaii District Council, meetings of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of this membership, shall be governed by parliamentary authority and provisions of the current version of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*, subject to the foregoing Constitution and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

b. The District Superintendent in consultation with the District Presbytery shall appoint a special committee, which shall be known as the Parliamentary Committee, consisting of qualified persons capable to act as parliamentarians for District Council membership meetings. Such appointees shall be notified of respective appointment not less than 60 days prior to the District Council. All members of such Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council.

Section 2. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the District Council shall be:

- A. Call to Order – “The meeting will be in order.”
- B. Opening Prayer and Devotional
- C. Announcement and Confirmation of Committee Appointments
- D. Roster Report
- E. Report of the Superintendent
- F. Report of the Assistant Superintendent
- G. Report of the Secretary
- H. Report of the Treasurer
- I. Reports of the Sectional Presbyters
- J. Reports of the Department Directors
- K. Reports of Committees
- L. Unfinished Business
- M. Election of Officers.
- N. New Business
- O. Adjournment

NOTE: All District Council Stated Meetings and Special Meetings shall commence with prayer followed by devotion. All business sessions of the Council shall commence with prayer.

Section 3. Concerning Resolutions.

Resolutions to be submitted for consideration at the District Council meeting should be type written and mailed to the Resolution Committee Chairperson at least 60 days prior to the District Council for proper wording and concept. Those resolutions should be mailed to the voting members at least two weeks prior to the District Council. All other resolutions either written prior to the District Council, or made from the floor, shall be type written or legibly written and a copy given to the Resolution Committee Chairperson and District Secretary before they are presented to the body.

Section 4. Ministry

a. All evening rallies of this District Council shall be seen as opportunities to evangelize with a special speaker who is able to not only encourage the pastors, guests, friends and visitors, but also reap a harvest of the lost.

b. District Council participants are encouraged to distribute literature in the community, inviting people to come to the evening rallies.

c. The annual District Council meeting shall be held on the Island of Oahu. Preparation of flyers, public service announcements, transportation and other activities of the District Council shall be the responsibility of the assigned committees.

d. The ministers and spouses retreat shall be held on a different island each year so as to give pastors and churches located on that island the benefit of participating in these District activities.

ARTICLE II - NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Section 1. Voting Constituency

a. The voting constituency of this District Council shall consist of all accredited members present and registered at the annual District Council meeting, specifically: ordained ministers, licensed ministers and certified ministers; one recognized delegate from each officially affiliated and district dependent church; and one recognized delegate from each home mission church.

1) Any minister failing to meet the standard set, that is, the minimum standard set for dues, neither they nor their church will be permitted to vote. This applies only to the senior pastor, whose negligence would affect the voting status of the church. It does not pertain to an associate or staff person.

2) Any individual serving as a senior pastor of a district affiliated or district dependent assembly, who does not hold credentials with the Assemblies of God, will not be able to vote as the senior pastor of that assembly, but could vote as its delegate.

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b. The voting constituency of the Sectional meetings shall consist of the ordained ministers, license ministers and certified ministers residing in the Section and one delegate, duly appointed and certified as hereinafter provided from each affiliated and district dependent assembly of their section.

c. All delegates to this District Council must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, and must present an official letter of appointment signed by the pastor of the church they represent. The church they are representing should defray the expenses of the pastor and the delegate to attend the District Council meeting.

d. The delegates to the District Council should present a full report of the Council to their respective churches.

Section 2. Quorum

a. **District Council Meetings.** All ordained ministers, licensed ministers, certified ministers and delegates and such other persons as may be prescribed by this District's Constitution and Bylaws, who are present and registered at the District Council meeting, shall constitute a quorum.

b. **District Presbytery Meetings.** A majority of the District Presbyters assembled for a District Presbyters' meetings shall constitute a quorum.

c. Any decision of the above-mentioned quorum shall be valid and binding.

Section 3. Executive Officers

(See District Council Constitution Article IX, Section 1)

a. **Named.** The Executive Officers in this District Council shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The District Superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the District Council. (General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, page 104.)

b. **Qualifications.** The Executive Officers of the Hawaii District Council shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided in these Bylaws. They shall be ordained ministers of The Hawaii Assemblies of God, and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above questions, who have held credentials and ministered as ordained ministers for at least 3 consecutive years in our Assemblies of God Fellowship, and shall have been members of the District for at least 1 year prior to their election and who fully cooperate with all its policies.

c. **Terms of Office.** The tenure of office shall begin 30 days after election at the District Council and shall continue for a period of 2 years or until a successor is elected.

d. **Nominations.** All candidates for the Executive Office shall be nominated

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by secret ballot. If a candidate receives at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on the nominating ballot, it will constitute an election.

e. Votes Required. All accredited delegates must act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and shall not act by proxy, and the delegates may not assign or transfer their delegacy. The following procedures shall be used to determine the election of a candidate for office:

1) A two-thirds majority vote is required for election. A person can be elected on the nominating ballot if he or she receives the required votes.

2) If no such majority of the votes cast shall be reached after the second elective ballot, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the second elective ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon. Any nominee may withdraw their name at any time.

3) On the third elective ballot, a simple majority vote shall constitute an election.

Section 4. Sectional Presbyters

a. Named. There shall be a minimum of five (5) geographical sections and additional Ethnic Section as deemed necessary in this District, to be elected by their respective section and ratified by the District Council. (See District Council Constitution Article IX, Section 4, page 12.)

b. Qualification. The Sectional Presbyters of the District Council of the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above question, who have held credentials and ministered as an ordained minister for at least three (3) consecutive years in our Assemblies of God Fellowship; and shall have been members of the District for at least one year prior to their election and who fully cooperate with all its policies.

c. Term of Office. The tenure of office shall begin 30 days after election at the District Council, and shall continue for a period of 2 years, or until a successor is elected.

d. Nominations. The presbyters for each section shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at a separate meeting of the ministers and delegates from each section. Such meetings are to be called by the Presbyter of his or her Section no less than 30 days prior to the District Council. This election shall be held every 2 years between the Executive Officers election and shall be ratified by the District Council.

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e. Motion to Ratify. The motion to ratify (also called approve or confirm) is an incidental main motion that is used to confirm or make valid an action already taken and cannot become legally valid until approved by the assembly. Case where the procedure of ratification is applicable includes action taken by a local unit (Sectional meeting) that requires approval of the state or national organization. An assembly can ratify only such actions of its officers, committees, delegates, or subordinate bodies as it would have the right to authorize in advance. Ratification can be made valid by a voice-vote election (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition, page 119).

Section 5. District Council Department Leaders

a. The departments currently authorized in the Hawaii Assemblies of God are the following:

- 1) Christian Education (CE)
- 2) Foreign Missions (FM)
- 3) Hawaii Youth Ministries (HYM)
- 4) U.S. (Home) Missions (HM)
- 5) HonorBound Men of Promise (HB)
- 6) Young Adult
- 7) Women's Ministries (WM)

b. Nomination and Election Procedure (Passed 2006). The nomination and election of the Department Directors are accomplished as follows:

1) Candidates willing to serve will be nominated by each Section to be presented to the District Presbytery at the January Presbytery meeting in each odd-number year.

2) The District Secretary will then confirm that the nominated candidates are qualified and willing to serve.

3) The confirmed list of candidates for each Ministry Department Head will then be given to the District Superintendent.

4) The District Superintendent will select and submit for approval the Ministry Department Heads to the Executive and Sectional Presbytery for a two (2) year term.

5) Selected Ministry Department Directors will be presented to the District Membership at the District Council each odd-numbered year.

6) No nominations will be accepted from the floor.

c. Qualification for Directors:

1) Christian Education (CE). This person shall be of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry is above question and who has held credentials and ministered as an ordained or licensed minister for at least 3

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consecutive years in The Hawaii Assemblies of God, and shall have been a member of the District for at least 1 year prior to appointment.

2) **Foreign Missions (FM).** This person shall be of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry is above question and who has held credentials and ministered as an ordained minister for at least 3 consecutive years in the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall have been a member of the Hawaii District for at least 1 year and has a heart and compassion for the lost and World Missions.

3) **Hawaii Youth Ministries (HYM).** This person shall be of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry is above question and who has held credentials as an ordained or licensed (to include special youth license) minister, for at least 3 consecutive years in The Hawaii Assemblies of God, and shall have been a member of the District for at least 1 year prior to the election. Whenever a licensed minister holds this position, the District Presbytery will appoint an ordained minister to serve as an advisor on the Executive Committee.

4) **U. S. (Home) Missions (HM).** The Assistant Superintendent shall be the Home Missions Department Director and be the chairman of all its committees. He shall be amenable to the District Superintendent and the Presbytery and shall work in harmony with the policies of the District Council at all times.

5) **HonorBound Men of Promise (HB).** The qualification for the HonorBound Director shall be a man of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question. He shall have been a member of an Assemblies of God church for at least 1 year prior to his election. A layman MUST have the endorsement of his senior pastor and approved by the District Presbytery.

6) **Young Adult.** This person shall be of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry is above question and who has held credentials as an ordained minister for at least 3 consecutive years in the Hawaii Assemblies of God, and shall have been a member of the District for at least 1 year prior to appointment.

7) **Women's Ministry (WM).** The Director shall be a minister, or the wife of a minister, widow of a minister, or a lay woman with qualified leadership ability, mature experience, sound Christian character and shall have been in fellowship with the Hawaii District Council for at least 1 year prior to the District Council. She shall be an active member of an Assembly of God church in Hawaii. Also, she shall be expected to meet the requirements for spiritual leadership in conformity with the principles set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Acts 2:4.

d. Department Reports. Each director and the Foreign Missions Director shall send reports to the District Office at least once every 6 months, with news

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relating to their area of service. Also, they shall submit to the district office at the appropriate time, their department's calendar of events.

Section 6. Office of General Presbyters

a. District Representatives. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members and they are as follows: the district superintendent, assistant superintendent and secretary who shall serve by virtue of their office as executive officers of the Hawaii District Council. At least one of the three representatives shall be an ordained pastor of a church within this District. They shall take office immediately following their election as executive presbyters at the District Council. The General Presbyters are the policy-making body of the General Council when it is not in session. They are to represent the fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective field. (District Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, and General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2 paragraph d.)

b. Office of General Presbyters. In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any reason, the presbytery of the District Council shall appoint one to serve as general presbytery until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the District Council.

1) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called meeting of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyter. The alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. This district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery. The general secretary shall request from each District Council within that area (General Council Bylaws, Article 2, Section 3, paragraph c) to submit two nominees for the office. The entire General Presbytery shall vote upon nominees until one receives two-thirds of all votes cast.

Section 7. Nominee for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter

a. At the District Council meeting prior to the General Council, the voting constituency shall nominate and elect one minister. The district superintendent by virtue of the office held shall be the other representative. The nominee shall be elected by a two-thirds vote. The names of these two individuals shall be presented to the General Council, along with nominees from other districts in the Southwest Region, for election as Non-Resident Executive Presbyter. These individuals must be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question.

Section 8. Vacancies

a. Executive Officers. In the event any of the executive offices

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of the Hawaii District Council shall become vacant through death or other cause, the remaining Executive Presbytery and Sectional Presbyters shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the District Council; with the exception that, in the event of death or incapacity of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent shall succeed to the office of District Superintendent until the next District Council; or, in the event of the offices of the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the vacant offices shall be as follows: first, the District Secretary; and second, the District Treasurer.

b. Nonresident Executive Presbyters. In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an area nonresident executive presbyter, the General Council Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council.

c. Sectional Presbyters. In the event any of the sectional presbyters of the Hawaii District Council become vacant through death, resignation, disqualification or any other reason, power is vested in the Executive Presbytery to fill the office for the remaining term in consultation with the other sectional presbyters.

d. Department Directors. In the event a vacancy occurs in any of the departments, the Executive Presbytery has the authority to appoint a person to fill that position until the next District Council.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Section 1. Superintendent

The duties of the District Superintendent shall include the following:

a. Emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, and the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission. (General Council Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 paragraph a.)

b. It shall be permissible for the District Superintendent to pastor a church along with the duties as District Superintendent and shall have personal supervision of all the work of the district with the cooperation of the District Presbytery.

c. Shall preside at the meeting of the District Council, the District Presbytery and shall receive all communications directed to that body.

d. Shall be the president of the corporation in all its legal matters and shall be an ex-officio member of all its departments and committees and shall sign all legal documents.

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e. Shall assist in maintaining churches already established.

f. Shall render assistance to any local assembly when such assembly is in need of counsel and advice, at the call of the pastor or church, in the handling of its affairs, with the cooperation of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

The duties of the Assistant District Superintendent shall include the following:

a. Assist the District Superintendent.

b. Serve as Vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the District Presbytery in the absence of the District Superintendent.

c. Shall perform any other function under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the Hawaii District Council, or the District Presbytery.

d. Serve as the U. S. (Home) Missions Department Director for the various ministries:

- 1) Chaplaincy Ministry
- 2) Chi-Alpha
- 3) Church Builders/Planting
- 4) Intercultural Ministries
- 5) Teen Challenge of the Hawaiian Islands

Section 3. Secretary

The duties of the District Secretary shall include the following:

a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of all the District Presbyters' meetings.

b. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council, the minutes, resolutions, and other documents, and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the District Council.

c. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and shall issue and sign credentials as directed by the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, certified ministers, and local assemblies of the district fellowship.

d. Keep copies of the deeds of all properties registered under the corporate name of The Hawaii Assemblies of God, Inc.

e. Authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or may be directed by the District Council or Presbytery.

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f. Shall verify qualifications of all nominees for district ministry directors and shall refer all qualified candidates for office to the District Superintendent for selection and confirmation and submit their names for ratification at the District Council meeting.

g. Shall keep a list of all new works (churches) and name of the pastor, and district dependent, and district affiliated churches, and publish this list to all credential ministers in the Hawaii Assemblies of God at the District Council.

Section 4. Treasurer

The duties of the District Treasurer shall include the following:

a. Serve as the custodian of the District Council funds and shall deposit them in a financial institution designated by the District Presbytery.

b. Keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements of funds, and conduct the work of the office, according to the accepted methods of business.

c. Shall be authorized to sign such checks and make such disposition of funds as may be required in the accurate procedure of the business of the district, as directed by the District Council.

d. Shall send out a complete financial report at least 3 weeks prior to the first day of the District Council in session, and make other reports as requested by the District Presbytery.

e. Shall present the financial records to the District Presbytery for audit once a year, or as requested by that body.

f. Shall perform such other functions as are customary to that office or as may be directed by the District Council or District Presbytery.

Section 5. Executive Presbytery

The District Executive Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

a. Authorized to act for the Fellowship in all matters that affect its interest while the District Council is not in session and shall make a report to the District Council as requested.

b. Set the times and places of the meetings of the District Presbytery by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary, according to the needs of the work, but no less than 4 times each year. One of these meetings shall be during the District Council in session.

c. Meet at each District Council meeting to receive the reports of all

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committees, consider recommendations, and make decisions on all matters pertaining to the District organizations.

d. Serve as the Credentials Screening Committee, and all approved candidates will be submitted to the General Council Credentialing Committee for further approval.

e. Serve as the Board to which appeals may be made and their decision shall be considered final unless appeals are made to the General Council.

f. Interpret the Constitution and Bylaws as adopted by the Council and shall be governed by the same. The decisions of the District Presbytery shall be final unless reversed by the District Council in session.

g. Empowered to interpret policy and mandates adopted by the membership of the District Council in session, and its decisions in this regard shall be final, unless reversed or modified by the membership of the District Council in session. The District Presbytery is amenable to the membership in this regard, and shall make reports to the membership upon request.

h. Empowered to appoint committees as may be required.

i. Make appointments to fill an office, which may become vacant between sessions of the District Council.

j. Arrange for and announce the meetings of the District Council, with consideration for the interests of the Fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.

k. Hold in trusts such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as directed. (General Council Bylaws, Article III, Section 7).

l. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatever kind; to borrow monies as deemed debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The Hawaii Assemblies of God.

m. Organize the District Council in such a way as to assist the sectional presbyters in the performance of their duties.

n. Make a report to the District Council of their activities on behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed.

Section 6. Sectional Presbyters

The duties of the sectional presbyters shall be as follows:

a. Serve as head of all Sectional functions and the chairman of the Fellowship meetings in their section.

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b. When appealed to by a pastor or assembly desiring advice or aid, will investigate and bring about an adjustment or solution. If unable to satisfactorily settle a matter, the presbyter or the local assembly or the pastor of that local Assembly shall refer the matter to the District Presbytery through the District Superintendent for final disposition.

c. Meet with the pastors of the assemblies in their respective section, fostering the spirit of close relationship between each assembly.

d. Assist in the making of investigations within their section as initiated by the District Superintendent or the District Presbytery.

e. Submit a yearly written report of activities at the annual District Council.

f. Be involved in the initiation and progress of any Home Mission project undertaken within their section.

g. Expected to contact each of the credential holders in their section who did not attend District Council to ascertain their reason for non-attendance and forward any concerns to the district superintendent.

h. Receive, from the secretary, a list of those who are delinquent in paying their dues and find out why, and encourage them to pay or write a letter to the Superintendent requesting leniency.

i. Focus on ministering to ministers, encourage their participation, providing encouragement in times of difficulty, pray with them, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter. (GC Bylaws, Article V, Section 4)

Section 7. Duties of the District Representatives to General Presbytery

The General Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

a. Advance the mission of the Assemblies of God by promoting effective ministry and harmonious relationships among all churches, credentialed ministers, ministries institutions, and entities of the Fellowship.

b. Be the policy making body.

c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister.

d. Determine the salaries and allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.

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e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever ten percent or more of the members of the General Presbytery so requests.

f Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

Section 8. Duties and Purpose of Departments and Directors

The duties and purpose of the Departments and Directors are as follows:

a. Christian Education Director (CE)

1) Shall be responsible for the expansion of the department, its organization and to enlarge or assist in enlarging the Christian Education and all other kinds of church school programs in the District and shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.

2) Shall be accountable for all monies received from any source and shall make an annual report for the District Council.

3) Shall recruit and appoint sectional representatives to assist in arranging training courses, conventions, rallies, and all other activities that are pertinent to the expansion of Christian Education on a sectional level. The sectional representatives shall refer to the department manual for guidance. They shall meet with the Director at least once a year or as often as deemed necessary.

4) Maintain liaison with the National Sunday School Department, Children's Ministry Department, and BGMC Department.

5) Maintain a file of general information and helpful suggestions for efficient work in all Christian Education programs.

6) Promote boys and girls camps.

7) To perform other functions relative to Christian Education within the District as deemed necessary and workable and as directed by the District Presbytery.

8) Arrange for a seminar at least once a year to be planned specifically for and with the assistance of sectional representatives with the following objectives:

a) Stimulate cooperation between the Local Assemblies Sunday School and the District and National program.

b) Provide inspiration and enlarged vision through the assistance of

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qualified speakers, publications and other means and methods.

9) Attend the annual National Christian Education Directors Conference when feasible.

b. Foreign Missions Director (FM)

1) Shall promote the cause of Foreign Missions within the District.

2) Shall plan and schedule itineraries for missionaries appointed by the Assemblies of God World Missions Department.

3) Arrange for an annual Foreign Missions Rally on each island.

4) Report annually to the District Council

5) Use whatever means or methods approved by the District Presbytery in the furtherance of Foreign Missions.

6) Plan and coordinate the District World Missions Calendar and submit a complete copy to the District Superintendent by August each year.

7) Recruit and select a sectional representative for each section and provide them with information concerning missionaries planning to itinerate in the District. The sectional representative shall refer to the department manual for additional information and guidance.

8) Oversee ministry finances in cooperation with the District Treasurer.

9) Provide resources to aid churches in holding Missions Conventions.

10) Provide contacts for short-term Missions opportunities.

11) Provide a booth at the District Council to disseminate information about foreign missions.

c. Hawaii Youth Ministries Director (HYM)

1) Shall be responsible for the expansion of the department within the District, assisting or advising local churches as needed and shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.

2) Shall plan and promote a spiritual program to reach, save and disciple young people in Hawaii for the Kingdom of God, and to establish a definite home and foreign missions program through local and district youth activities.

3) Shall recruit and appoint from a list of nominees for sectional representatives in consultation with the District Presbytery. Each sectional

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representative shall be above reproach in character, recommended to be under 35 years of age, not a novice and especially cooperative with the local pastors.

4) Shall be responsible and accountable for all monies received from any source and shall make an annual report for the District Council.

5) Shall be responsible to ensure that other sectional HYM officers shall be credentialed within the District or shall have served as a sectional HYM representative. They shall refer to the department manual for additional information and guidance.

6) Shall promote youth camps, conventions, rallies, Speed-the-light, and the National Talent Contest.

d. HonorBound Men of Promise Director (HB)

1) Shall be responsible for expansion of the ministry and assist in organizing local units of Men's Ministries in the District churches and to encourage their participation in the National and District HonorBound Men's Ministries program.

2) Shall appoint a District Men's Ministries Executive Committee made up of men who are available and have a burden for the welfare of men in the State of Hawaii. This committee shall be approved by and amenable to the District Presbytery. The Executive Committee members shall serve for a period of 2 years or at the discretion of the Director as long as he remains in office.

3) Shall if the need arises, form an advisory council or utilize the standing committee in an advisory capacity. The council or committee members shall follow the department manual for additional information and guidance.

4) Shall recruit and recommend to the District Presbytery a candidate for the Royal Rangers District Commander.

5) Shall be responsible to assist the Royal Rangers District Commander in recruiting and selecting its district leadership team, oversee leadership training seminars, pow-wows, skill-o-rama, and other activities as are deemed necessary for the promotion of the Royal Rangers program.

6) Shall be responsible to oversee the Royal Rangers income and disbursements and to make sure an annual financial report is sent to the District Treasurer 30 days prior to the District Council.

7) Assist the ministry treasurer in providing accurate accounting of all funds received and disbursed, and an annual financial report are sent to the District Secretary 30 days prior to the District Council along with his annual ministry report.

e. U. S. (Home) Missions Director (HM)

7) Designation. The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as its director.

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2) Shall direct the development of a dynamic program for mobilizing the personnel and resources of the Hawaii District Council for the purpose of reaching every individual with the Full Gospel message.

3) To formulate and develop a program for starting new churches. (See The General Council Form 737-019 [E-Revised 01/09/08] New Churches Opened.)

4) To conduct U. S. (Home) Mission seminars, workshops for ministers and laymen within the district.

5) Coordinate existing Home Missions programs in the District and seek to make them as effective as possible.

6) Preside over as chairman over all committee work pertaining to Home Missions.

7) To perform any other duties as directed by the District Presbytery.

f. Young Adult Ministries Director (YA)

1) Shall be responsible for the expansion of the department within the District, assisting or advising local churches as needed and shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.

2) Shall plan and promote a spiritual program to reach, save and disciple young adults in the State of Hawaii for the Kingdom of God, and to establish a definite home and foreign missions program through local and district young adult activities.

3) Shall if the need arises, form a Young Adult Ministries committee.

4) Shall be responsible and accountable for all monies received from any source and shall make an annual report for the District Council

g. Women's Ministry Director (WM)

1) Shall have the responsibility of aiding foreign and home missions, mission stations, home churches, pioneer pastors, Bible schools, benevolence, orphanages and other ministries as requested. Such material and financial assistance as may be determined, all in harmony with the policies and practices of the District and National Women's Ministries Department.

2) They shall emphasize a strong spiritual ministry and edification of members, intercessory prayer and Bible study, development of latent possibilities for service among the women, maintenance of definite vision and burden for missionary work.

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- 3) Shall actively sponsor and promote the Mpaact Girls Club of the District.
- 4) Shall work in close cooperation with the National Women’s Ministries Department and the Hawaii Executive Presbytery.
- 5) Shall along with the Women’s Ministry committee, plan for Women’s Ministries day at the District Council, plan island tours, retreats, conventions, and other activities of the District Women’s Ministries program.
- 6) To be available to teach training courses when called upon to do so.
- 7) Plan District projects to assist Home and Foreign Missions, in consultation with the National and District Officers.

Section 9. Duties Involving Oversight of Properties

a. All real property belonging to this District Council or held by it in trust, or otherwise, shall be deeded to the District Council in its official corporate name.

b. The Executive Presbytery shall have oversight and management control of all property belonging to or held in trust by the District Council, particularly to safely keep same, acquiring appropriate and adequate insurance against loss, with coverage sufficient to take care replacement value, or in appropriate situations to cover at least the extent of District Council’s financial interest in the property.

ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES

A committee, as understood in parliamentary law, is a body of one or more persons, elected or appointed by (or by direction of) an assembly or society, to consider, investigate, or take action on certain matters or subjects, or to do all of these things. Unlike a board, a committee is not itself considered to be a form of assembly. The term committee commonly implies a relatively small number of persons appointed to give a task more detailed attention than is possible in a body the size of the assembly.

Ordinary committees are of two types: *standing committees* (which have a continuing existence) and *special committees* (which go out of existence as they have completed a task). (Robert’s Rules of Order, Chapter XVI page 464.)

Section 1. Standing Committee

Standing Committee shall be by appointment or election as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a Standing Committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy. (General Council Bylaws, Article IV, and Section 1)

Section 2. Special (Select, or Ad Hoc) Committees

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Committees such as the following shall be appointed by the District Superintendent, with the help and advice of the Executive Presbyters and Sectional Presbytery as the need arises, to carry out a specified task, at the completion of which—that is, on presentation of its final report to the Assembly—it automatically ceases to exist. The Special Committee Chairperson shall be appointed at least 2 months prior to the District Council and their names published for the purpose of properly planning and conducting the business of the District Council while in session, together with such other committees as may be necessary for the conducting of the District Council business.

a. Advertising Committee. The function of this committee is to publicize the District Council both to the Churches and to the Community and State. They are to place advertising in the newspaper, on the radio or television utilizing all available public service announcement when possible. If there are features of significance to happen during the Council, such as a church dedication, an ordination service or special speakers, these activities are to be publicized in a timely matter. For the churches, handbills and posters need to be prepared and sent to them in ample time to encourage attendance.

b. Coordinating Committee. This committee shall coordinate the various phases of the services and arrange for the master of ceremonies. All of those having anything to do with the services must work with and cooperate with the Service Coordinator, who is the chairperson of this committee. The Service Coordinator shall make arrangements proper for introductions, honorable mentions, recognize newly installed officers, dignitaries that may be present for the service and provide time slot for the song service, prayer time, announcements and all other activities.

c. Credentials Committee. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses and certified ministers' certificate and to issue annual fellowship cards to those whose renewal questioners have received district endorsement. Likewise, the Executive Presbytery and Sectional Presbyters of the Hawaii District Council shall constitute the Credentials Committee of the Hawaii Assemblies of God. This committee is to review the applications and interview all applicants for credentials, and shall review credentials of individuals transferring into the Hawaii District and to take appropriate action, and if necessary, interview these ministers. Names and appropriate forms of all qualified applicants shall be forwarded to the General Council for the final approval.

d. Hospitality. Working with the Service Coordinator, this committee provides refreshments for coffee breaks, fellowship times and other gatherings as planned. They shall work with the Roster Committee and determine the location of people so they can be easily located. They should supply leis for people to be honored, such as dignitaries, guest speakers, honorees, or possibly for all in attendance.

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e. Housing. This committee is responsible to make arrangements to provide delegates with accommodations either in homes or hotels. Location of restaurants, and maps showing their location, along with prices should be provided, sending such information through the Advertising Committee to the various churches. Also, in the event box lunches are desired, information should be provided where this item can be purchased.

f. Music. Those on this committee will be working in cooperation with and under the supervision of the Service Coordinator. They shall select a song leader, pianist or organist for each public service. Special music will be provided and if possible, a choir.

g. Parliamentary. Those persons serving on this committee must be prepared and have "*Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised*" available and be knowledgeable of procedures, and be able to give direction for proper procedure in case of questions. This committee is authorized to guide towards a proper procedure.

h. Prayer. Prior to District Council, this committee shall endeavor to get the churches to pray for various facets of the meeting. They are to work with the Advertising Committee in getting such information to the churches. Then during the District Council, a set time for prayer is scheduled and announced to the constituents by the master of ceremonies. Also, prayer requests should be sought. As a suggestion, perhaps small sheets of paper and a box could be provided for people to drop their requests into. Other responsibilities are to assign someone to pray during the main services and also recruit altar workers who will aid at the close of the service.

i. Roster Committee. The Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the District Council shall appoint a Roster Committee. The Roster Committee shall keep a record of those attending the District Council, during the business session. The record must identify the ordained, licensed, certified, specialized licensed ministers, delegates and visitors. The committee shall be responsible for providing the ribbons and nametags.

j. Resolutions Committee.

1) Procedure for presentation of resolutions. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Resolutions Committee. All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the District Secretary at least 60 days prior to a District Council session. The Resolution Committee is to accept all resolutions and see that they are properly worded for presentation to the District Council. Copies of all advance resolutions shall be prepared in printed form for distribution by mail at least 30 days prior to the District Council. Should certain items be referred to this committee during the business session, members of the committee must be prepared to meet quickly to reword or advise changes or whatever, for the next session. It is essential that the makers of the resolutions be known, in order to clarify original intend.

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2) Sponsorship Policy. The author or sponsor shall sign all resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee. When a resolution is presented for consideration of the District Council in session, the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

3) Scriptural Interpretation. Except for resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, or District Council, resolutions that involve scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful.

4) Appropriateness of Resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the District Council. A resolution passed by the District Council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.

5) Right of Sponsor. If the Resolution Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the District Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

6) Format of Presentation. The Resolution Committee shall:

- a) Put resolution in proper form.
- b) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- c) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

k. Transportation. It is essential to obtain, if possible, information from the various churches as to when their people will be coming into the airport. It is necessary to work closely with the Advertising Committee and have them send out a form that would get this information back to the Transportation Committee. It is necessary to set a cutoff time so that it won't be necessary to go back and forth to the airport all day. In the event of excursions, sightseeing or going to a function elsewhere on the island, it is necessary to see to it that transportation is provided going to the activity and return back to their accommodations.

l. Ushers and Tellers. The duties of this committee are two-fold.

1) Ushers are to assist with seating, collection of offerings (making sure containers are available), counting the offerings (the chairman and 2 ushers) and seeing that the District Treasurer is given the money.

2) The tellers are to be available to distribute reports, ballots, and other materials for the Council, and the chairman shall have a chalkboard and supplies as needed prior to an election or when voting on issues are undertaken. They also will collect and count ballots cast, and give the information to the

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chairman, who gives the results to the district secretary. The tellers should have designated assignments before a business session, those who will function as chalkboard tellers (someone who can write legibly) and distributing tellers, who will respond when distributions are required.

m. Sound System. This committee shall provide an adequate sound system for all District Council functions. Provisions for taping all scheduled functions are to be made by this committee. The chairman shall be a person who is familiar with and trained in the use of the sound equipment to facilitate the use and set up of the equipment. This committee may be asked to assist in video presentation and possible video recording.

n. Spiritual Life Committee. A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Executive and Sectional Presbyters, selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall study the spiritual climate within the District and shall report to the Executive Presbytery and Sectional Presbyters annually. They shall prepare a report for presentation at the District Council every other year and share the Spiritual Life Committee report from the General Council the year following the General Council Biennial meeting. (See General Council Bylaws, Article IV, Section 5)

o. Other Committees. The District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery may appoint other committees as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS AND SECTIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Role of the District

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district shall provide ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats. The district oversees district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and discipline for its constituents. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the General Council Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective (Hawaii) district council.

Section 2 Officers

Each district shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary or a secretary-treasurer, and presbyters. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the District Council.

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Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at the District Council and the sectional meetings shall consist of all ordained, licensed, certified ministers and accredited delegates from affiliated churches and such other persons delegates as may be prescribed by the District Constitution and Bylaws, which are present and registered at district meetings.

Section 4. Sectional Organization and Presbytery

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

a. Purpose. Because of the uniqueness of our Island landscape, the sectional structure or organization was adopted for purpose of aiding the pursuance of district business.

b. Boundaries of Each Section. Currently, the Hawaii District Council is made up of 6 sections, and they are as follows: Big Island, Kauai, Maui County, Oahu-Central/Leeward, Oahu-Metro/Windward, and Samoan Section.

If and when the need arise, the subdivisions of the sections within the Hawaii District Council shall be determined by the District Presbytery.

c. Privileges. Each Section shall have one representative who has been duly elected at their respective sectional meeting, ratified by the voting constituency at the District Council and will serve on the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Dissolution of District

a. Loss of Recognition. In the event an existing district shall have less than 40 churches, General Council or District affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

b. General Presbytery Prerogative. Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 6. Ethnic and Language Fellowships

Ethnic or language groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Although functioning as a fellowship, the ethnic churches shall remain affiliated with the appropriate district. When an ethnic or language group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a

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presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the ethnic or language fellowship to represent the ethnic or language fellowship within a district.

ARTICLE VI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation

It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The Hawaii Assemblies of God and eventually The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualification shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws. (General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1)

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

a. A church desiring district affiliation shall forward its request to the District Secretary, who shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.

b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the District who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws or bylaws acceptable to the District. (Copy of the Recommended Bylaws for Local Assemblies is on the ag.org website.)

c. An existing mature District affiliated church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the District Council for guidance and assistance.

d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the Assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the General Secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by this district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final. (General Council Constitution, Article XI, and General Council Bylaws, Article VI).

Section 2. The Sovereignty of the Local Church

This District Council accepts it as doctrinal that the local church is recognized as being ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our Fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God should be considered as eligible

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for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

a. Support. It is recognized that for any organization to survive and serve effectively, it must have the moral and financial support of its constituency.

b. District. The local Assemblies, especially The General Council and District Council affiliated assembly, should cooperate in the work and support the programs of The General Council and District Council with financial support.

c. General Council Affiliated Assemblies may send delegates to the General Council.

d. Every District Affiliated Church is required to send \$10.00 per month to this District for Administration expenses.

Section 3. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

a. A General Council Affiliated Assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God general secretary.

b. Requirements for Affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements:

1) **Minimum Membership.** Have an adult membership of not less than 20 persons.

2) **Statement of Fundamental Truths.** An acceptance of the Assemblies of God tenets of faith is vital.

3) **Acceptable Standards of Membership.** Have a scriptural standard of membership determined by the local Assembly in agreement with the District Council.

4) **Acceptable Standards for Church Officers.** A scriptural standard for the office of a bishop, elder and deacon, and other officers in positions of leadership in the local assembly must be established. We recommend these standards be upheld by all our Assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

5) **Organization and Recognition.**

a) **Constitution and Bylaws:** An Affiliated Assembly shall be set-in-order under the jurisdiction of and/or with the approval of the district, and with a recommended or approved Constitution and Bylaws or Bylaws.

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b) An affiliated assembly shall request assistance and guidance from the Hawaii District for forming a proper religious non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Hawaii. Particular attention shall be made to the dissolution and/or reversionary clause.

6) **Membership Certificate.** Upon notification by the District of the action, the General Secretary's office shall issue a Certificate of Affiliation for each church coming into the Fellowship, and which has been approved for General Council Affiliation.

7) **The Sovereign Local Assemblies of God Church.** They shall be separately incorporated, with its own Federal Employers Identification number and Federal Tax Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3), or may use and be reported under the group exemption granted by the federal government to The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. Prerogatives and Privileges.

1) **Autonomy.** The local Assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ its living Head, which includes the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit.

2) **Available Ministries.** The local Assembly has the right to request the assistance of the District Officials in filling a pastoral vacancy and to benefit from other approved ministries.

3) **Discipline.** The local Assembly has the right to administer discipline to its members, according to the Scriptures and its Bylaws.

4) **Property.** The local Assembly has the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

5) **Appeal.** The local Assemblies have the right to file an appeal as provided in the following steps:

a) **To District Officials.** The pastor, the church board, or the church body, by petition, has the right to appeal to the District Officials for help when in need of counsel or advice.

b) **To General Council Executive Presbytery.** The local assembly has the right to appeal a decision by the District Officials to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the Assembly has received proper help from the District.

6) **Representation.** The right of representation at the meetings of The General Council by one officially appointed and registered delegate, and at the meetings of the Hawaii District Council, according to the provision for such (Bylaws, Article II, Section 7).

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7) **Other Benefits.** The right to benefit from approved General Council institutions, such as, colleges, divisional and departmental ministries, publications and other ministerial resources.

d. Responsibilities.

1) **Sovereignty.** While the fact that a local Assembly is affiliated in the association with the District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God, it shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty, there are certain responsibilities to the Fellowship that should be recognized.

2) **Adherence to General Council Principles and Doctrine.** It shall be the duty of local Assemblies to support by every means possible the basic principles upon which the Fellowship is founded, including that of “voluntary cooperation,” and strict adherence to the Statement of Fundamental Truths. (See the General Council Constitution, Articles III, IV, and V)

3) **Maintenance of Scriptural Order and Conduct:** Local Assemblies shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of Scriptural Order in the local body, and uphold a Scriptural standard of conduct. (See General Council Constitution, Article XI d, **Missions Support.** The Hawaii Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the gospel in both at home and in foreign lands. In keeping with this objective, there shall be both a Home Missions and Foreign Missions department for the purpose of development, administration and implementation of programs of evangelism and outreach.

a) **Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation.** All Assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise, and contribute regularly to the Assemblies of God Total Giving Plan. (See General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 4)

b) **World Missions Plan:** This District Council endorses the General Council World Missions - Foreign and U. S. (Home) Missions Plan, which designates the following: (See General Council Bylaws, Article XIII Section 3)

(1) **Foreign Missions Support:** The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of the Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

(a) Offerings designated for office expense.

(b) One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division.

(c) Undesignated funds.

(d) Five percent of all missionaries (with the exclusion of personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency fund.

(2) **Home/U. S. Missions:** Financial assistance in meeting the

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operating expenses of the Assemblies of God U. S. Missions shall be provided from:

(a) Offerings designated for office expenses.

(b) Five percent of all funds contributed through the National Assemblies of God U. S. Missions for nationally appointed and/or Assemblies of God U.S. Missions workers.

(c) Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions projects.

(d) One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment.

(e) All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God Chaplains actively serving full or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithes from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial/Occupational Chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial/Occupational Chaplaincy Fund, and the Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy Fund.

(f) **Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.** All Chi Alpha campus ministers shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.

All International Student Ministry missionaries and recognized international student ministry campus and church staff shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.

All Chi Alpha chapters and International Student Ministry works shall contribute 5 percent of their budget to the National Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.

(g) **Teen Challenge International, U. S. A.** All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute monthly in support of Teen Challenge International, U.S.A. (General Council Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 3)

c) **Regular Support of Missionaries.** The World Missions program of the Assemblies of God is a **faith mission**. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

d) **Church Support.** In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with the Assemblies of God World Missions.

(l) **Undesignated and General Emergency Funds.** Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

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(2) **District support.** It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable. (General Council Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 5)

e) **Itinerating Missionaries.** Missionaries assigned to the foreign missions field who itinerate in the Hawaii Assemblies of God churches are requested to give three (3) percent of the total offerings received to the District Foreign Missions fund. Likewise, the Home or U.S. Missionaries are requested to send three (3) percent of their total offerings to the Home/U.S. Missions fund.

Section 4. Annual Reports and Offerings from Assemblies

a. **Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR).** Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the office of the District Secretary and the General Council Secretary.

b. **Fellowship Partners Offering.** It is recommended that each church send to The General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of the administrative offices of The General Council. This offering shall be called Fellowship Partners offering, and shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25.00 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2000. (General Council Bylaws, Article VI Section 2 c)

Section 5. Safeguarding the Assemblies from Unapproved Ministries (General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 3.)

a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assembly of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.

b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and District officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 6. Relationship between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 4)

a. **Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing and self-determining bodies which have, by their

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sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship amenable to The General Council and District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct (See General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d, and The Hawaii Assemblies of God Constitution, Article XII, Section 1 paragraph d).

b. Relationships. Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exist between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

c. Organizational Assistance. The services of both the General Council and this District Council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members. When district officers receive such request, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision, and when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

d. Preservation of Affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with a two-thirds vote of the congregation.

Section 7. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies (General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5)

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained.

Section 8. New Assemblies (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6.)

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and The Hawaii Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiatives

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for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committee, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exist. If it is determined that a compelling reason exist, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their District Presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Section 9 Assemblies Resulting from a Division (General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 7)

a. Status of Assembly. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an Assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

b. Status of minister. Circumstances in each case will determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in the General Council Bylaws Article X Section 3.

Section 10. Transfer of Local Church Membership (General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 8)

a. Letter of Introduction. It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.

b. Acknowledgment of transfer. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

Section 11. Intervention of the District Office in a Local Assembly

a. Circumstances Requiring Intervention: While the right of a local Assembly to self-government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the Assembly has a responsibility to the District. Some of the circumstances, which may require intervention by the District Officials, are as follows:

- 1) Disruption resulting in division;
- 2) Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor or board;

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- 3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership;
- 4) Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices;
- 5) Attempt to disaffiliate from Assemblies of God Fellowship;
- 6) When it can be proven that a local Assembly can no longer govern itself.

b. Intervention Procedure. The District has the right to meet with the church board or congregation, or the District Officials may be extended an invitation. Intervention by the District can come about in the following ways:

- 1) By request of the pastor;
- 2) By action of the board;
- 3) By petition of the congregation, according to the Bylaws;
- 4) By action of the District Presbytery.

c. Discipline of Assemblies. Since the approval of an Assembly is the prerogative of this District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate Certificate of Affiliation, The Hawaii Assemblies of God has the right to request a meeting with the Assembly, if for some valid reason its status is in question. The District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God have the right to withdraw their certificate of membership, if deemed necessary. (General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4 d.)

d. Relocation of Assemblies. The relocation of an Assembly, particularly in relation to its proximity to other churches, shall be made with the approval of the District Officials.

e. Private Ownership of Church Properties Disapproved. This District Council disapproves of the ownership of any church properties by other than the entire church body through its duly elected trustees.

Section 12. District Affiliated Assemblies

a. Membership of Less than 20 Adults. A church that is mature and requires no financial support or supervision, but has less than 20 adult members, may be considered for District Affiliated status.

b. Other Requirements. The fact that an Assembly shall have attained a membership of 20 adults shall not in itself qualify it for General Council Affiliation status, but District Officials shall make the judgment in the light of other factors related to its maturity.

c. Degree of Supervision. The degree of supervision by this District Council shall be determined by the District Officials.

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d. Title to the Property. The title to the property of a District Affiliated Assembly shall be held by the Hawaii Assemblies of God unless, in the judgment of the District Officers, the church is qualified to be incorporated and hold title to its own property.

e. Certificate of Affiliation. A Certificate of Affiliation will be issued by the Hawaii District Council to an Assembly that qualifies for District Affiliation.

f. Reversion of General Council Affiliated Assembly to District Affiliated Status. When an annual questionnaire for a General Council affiliated church reflects that its active voting membership has dropped below 20, the church shall be notified at the discretion of the District Executive Officers that unless the membership is increased to a minimum requirement of 20 active voting members within one year, the church shall revert to District affiliated status.

When such action is taken, the District Office shall notify the General Secretary of The General Council and the local church. The church shall remain in a District Affiliated status until sufficient growth and maturity has been demonstrated to qualify for General Council affiliation. An application for Affiliation or reconsideration shall be filed with the District Secretary and approved by the District Presbytery.

Section 13. District Dependent Assemblies

New churches or mission efforts shall be under the supervision of the District Officials until they attain some degree of development and maturity to qualify for District affiliation as a Sovereign Assembly.

a. Home Missions and District Dependent Church

1) Churches shall remain in this status until the following criteria are met:

- a) There must be at least 20 members;
- b) The church must be able to govern itself;
- c) The church must be able to take care of its finances.

2) If a church fails in any of these areas and is not General Council Affiliated, it will have to abide by the guidelines set forth as follows:

a) A monthly report, sent out by the Home Missions Director, must be filled out and returned;

b) All major changes, such as, changing the church name, dropping certain services, such as, Sunday school or midweek service, major remodeling, etc., shall not be done, unless these intentions are made known to the Sectional Presbyter and he has the approval of the District Presbytery.

c) The monthly reports shall reflect a reasonable amount of time spent in visitation, follow-up, hospital calls, and other church activities that indicate signs of maturity.

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d) All church expenses **MUST** be paid first, before the pastor receives any remuneration. The Home Missions Director and the Sectional Presbyter will decide further remuneration.

e) The District Presbytery has the right to demand and receive the resignation of any Home Missions or District Dependent Church Pastor.

f) A church board is permitted, but it can only be an advisory board and not a policy-making one.

Section 14. Assemblies under District Supervision

Any church in need of administrative assistance for any reason may apply to the District Officials for aid. The congregation shall come under supervision of the District Presbytery until such time as they are able to return to their former status.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described (General Council Bylaws Art. VII, Section 1)

Christ's gifts to the church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7-8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister (includes specialized licensed), and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years, unless the credential is solely required by active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.)

Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

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a. Salvation. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).

b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the threefold mission of the church (General Council Article V, paragraph 10, of the Constitution).

c. Evidence of Call. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

d. Christian Character. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

e. Doctrinal Position. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

f. Assemblies of God Polity. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitutions and Bylaws.

g. Voluntary Cooperation and Commitment to the Fellowship. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

h. Basic Education Requirements. Any level of formal academic achievements (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either,

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2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph three (3) below, preferable, in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or a school approved by the District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or

3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or

4) Be recommended by a District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

i. Mandatory Screening. All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the District Presbytery prior to the submission of the application to the office of the General Secretary.

j. Marriage Status. We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouses unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

k. Ecclesiastical Annulments, Marriage Dissolutions, and Divorces. The Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions, which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with the ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2 (l).)

The District Presbytery shall also have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the Scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases,

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annulment must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the District Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

l. Eligibility of Women. The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or District and General Council leadership. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2)

m. Ministers from Other Organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees both The General Council and the District Council are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted, in the light of the Assemblies of God criteria. It is expected that ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish credentials received from any other organization. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the District Credentials Committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a District Council Credentials Committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who

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holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

a. Residency Requirements of Applicants. Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credential committee.

b. Local church credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by this District Council. It shall be nontransferable. (See APPENDIX page 88 for Guidelines.)

c. Certified Minister.

1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part of their time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the District Credentials Committee, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a designated coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to licensed credential level within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exception shall be at the discretion of the District Credentials Committee.

3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the District Credentials Committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

(a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one (1) year and shall not be renewed more than two (2) times.

(b) A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a 3-year period.

d. Licensed Minister. Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel

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e. **Ordained Minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

- 1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
- 2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
- 3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the District where they make application and appear before its Credentials Committee. District Councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the District in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year. Applicants who have not been a member of the District where they apply for ordination for two (2) full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the District in which they were previously licensed, as well as the District of their residence.

5) *Exception to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a District Credentials Committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the District Councils the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, shall take place under the auspices of the District Councils.

Section 5. Certificates

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue ordination certificates, licenses and certified ministers certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

Section 6. Official List

a. Active Ministers. The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, and with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a Fellowship card for the current year.

b. Inactive or Disabled Ministers. All credentials ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the General Secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the District of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the Credentials Committee of the District of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry, such as, Headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired given them little opportunity for public ministry.

4) *Minister with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevent them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled.

c. Restoration to Active Status. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officers.

Section 7. Senior Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of 65, whether or not they continue in full-time ministry.

a. Terminology.

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1) The term senior-active shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full-time in the ministry.

2) The term senior semi-retired shall be used for credential holders, who continue to be active, but for half time or less.

3) The term senior-retired shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

b. Application for Retired Category. Senior semi-retired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their District office. The District Secretary shall forward annually to the General Secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

c. Guidelines

1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semi retired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior semi-retired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.

4) *Support of General Council Headquarters.* Senior-active and senior semi-retired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council Headquarters as set forth in Bylaws Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph c, (1). Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute, as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

d. Aged Ministers Assistance. It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity, and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis.

1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

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2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a spouse of a minister.

3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the District officers.

e. Limitations of this Section 7

1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official under which their member serve.

2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the biblical responsibility for tithing.

Section 8. Ministerial Relations (General Council Bylaws, Article VII.)

a. Amenability. All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers, shall be amenable to both the District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws Article X.) All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and District Council in matter of doctrine and discipline. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8)

b. Affiliation with District of Residence. All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same.

1) *Exception.* Ministers who reside in one District but pastor a church located in another District shall be required to be a member of the District in which the church is located.

2) *Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries shall become members of the District in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that District by the office of the General Secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home districts, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their District while on official furlough.

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3) *Church-planting ministries.* Ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) They have a scope of ministry, which reaches, beyond District boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of The General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 5)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the District they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home District, be listed in their home District's Directory, and be extended voice and vote in their home District for such a time as they serve in another District. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. Missionary. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph 3)

c. Cooperation with Other Districts. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers conform to the financial policy of the District with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

1) *Financial responsibilities of world missionaries.* World Missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25.00 per month to their home District when resident in the U.S. and \$10.00 per month when resident on their fields.

2) *Financial responsibility of chaplains.* All Chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home District in the amount of 10 percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the District in which they fulfill their assignments.

3) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed or approved U.S. Missionaries.* Nationally appointed or approved U. S. Missionaries shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their member District where they serve and 25 percent of their tithe to their home District if they are listed as honorary members. Missionaries who minister in their home District shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of their tithe to that District.

Section 9. Transfer of Credentials

a. Certificate of Transfer: When a member takes up residence in another District, a Certificate of Transfer shall be issued within 60 days by the District of which he or she is a member, unless there are charges pending against the minister. The Certificate of Transfer shall be accepted by the District into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

1) Ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters.

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2) Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church.

3) Those that are in the armed forces currently on active duty.

4) Those who are serving on the staff of schools affiliated with The General Council and District Council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to The General Council and the District Council in which the school is located.

5) Those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home District.

6) Evangelists residing outside their home Districts.

7) Students in schools outside of their home District.

8) Those who are serving in non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

(a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond District boundaries.

(b) Both Districts agree to the exception.

(c) The institution is acceptable to both Districts.

9) Church planter involved in transdistrict ministry.

b. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship. A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship, may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following are met:

1) A letter of recommendation from the Executive Committee of the National Church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

2) A course on History, Missions and Polity of the Assemblies of God.

3) A completed ministerial application.

c. Transcript. In order to assist a member minister who is transferring into another District, a transcript giving helpful information concerning the minister and his or her spouse should accompany the Certificate of Transfer.

Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements of Fellowship Certificate (General Council Bylaws, Article VII)

a. Terminology

1) *Renewed.* The term renewed shall apply to all ministers who have met the annual deadline for renewal including those who are delinquent but who renew by January 15.

2) *Reinstated.* The term reinstated shall apply to the persons whose names

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have been deleted from the official ministerial list, who upon application, are approved for restoration of credentials.

b. Expiration Date. All Fellowship Certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year, and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their District office.

c. Grace Period until January 15. All who did not renew their Fellowship Certificates by mail postmarked on or before December 31, shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$25.00 up until January 15, to be divided equally between this District and office of The General Council.

d. Reinstatement of Lapsed Minister. Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement, and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$50, to be equally divided between the District and The General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time-lapsed required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

e. Reinstatement of Other than Dismissed Minister. When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the District where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$50 to be divided between the District and The General Council. (General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, reinstatement of dismissed minister)

The District of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the District that processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

f. Support of Headquarters. The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in the U.S. and World Missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$15 per month (\$180 per year) and certified ministers should contribute \$7.50 per month (\$90 per year). All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

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The General Treasurer's office shall submit to the respective District offices a semiannual report of ministers' contributions for the support of Headquarters. Each District shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the following methods:

- 1) Collectively, through District publications.
- 2) Individually, through personal letters.
- 3) Through any other media selected by the District.

The District shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and, in their knowledge of local situations, determine if he or she has been voluntarily cooperating with the General Council financial program.

Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations (General Council Bylaws, Article VII)

a. On the Initiative of the Minister:

1) *Lapsed.* Ministers, who do not renew their credentials, shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their names shall be published as lapsed in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter*, hereinafter referred to as the Ministers' Letter.

2) *Resigned.* Ministers, who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship, shall submit a letter of resignation to the District with which they are affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the District Council and General Council credentials committees. Their termination shall be listed in the Ministers' Letter as resigned.

b. On the initiative of the District (GC Bylaws, Article X, Section 4.)

1) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, his or her name shall be published as inactive in the Ministers' Letter.

2) *Not Renewed.* If in the opinion of the Credentials Committee a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, the minister's name shall be published as not renewed in the Ministers' Letter.

c. As a result of Affiliation with Other Church Organizations. In the event a minister shall identify himself with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. Investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

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d. Surrender of Credentials. In all cases, the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, License to Preach, and Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the District Office. The District shall forward these to the office of the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Section 12. Ministerial Status Change

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately to his or her District office, which in turn, is to report information to the office of the General Secretary of The General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

a. Address Changes. It is expected of all members that they keep the District Secretary informed of any address changes.

Section 13. Privileged Communications

Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.

Section 14. Integrity in Educational Credentials

a. Continuing Education encouraged. Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the District Council and The General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

b. Using adequately accredited institutions. Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since The General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the District Council or The General Council offices if they have questions in these matters.

ARTICLE VIII. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Section 1. Christian Marriage

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Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21-25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23-33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Article IX, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

Section 2. Children

Children “are a heritage from the Lord,” therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4).

ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY

a. Authorization and purpose. A Commission on Doctrinal Purity shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Appointments and terms of office. The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be 4 (four) years.

c. Vacancies and termination. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God and The Hawaii Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

Section 1. Unconditional Security

In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible’s call to a life

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of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for awhile can fall (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God and The Hawaii Assemblies of God view of the fact that one who believes for awhile can fall (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God and The Hawaii Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of Conscience. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp difference of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

b. Adding Conditions to Salvation. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

Section 3. Eschatological Errors.

a. The Restitution of All Things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a Date for the Lord’s Return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32-33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is always unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates, fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. Amillennialism. The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy

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which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church Dispensation is the spiritual millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. Credentials Jeopardized if made an issue. We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19-20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organization demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are the most part unregenerate (2 Corinthians 6:14).

The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8) thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any secret orders that The General Council recognize as essentially of the world, worldly; and The General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

1) *Marriage Entanglements Conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24).

2) *Common-law Marriages.* We recommend that in no case shall persons

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be accepted into membership who are known to be living in common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause, except for fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15, 27, 28).

c. Local Church Leadership.

1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

2) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogatives of setting their standards (in accordance with provisions of Article XI of The General Council Constitution and the Hawaii Assemblies Constitution Article IV).

d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

1) *Ministerial guideline.* We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship, who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with Scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior

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to the performing of the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom and sobriety.

e. Ministerial Credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we affirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to love not the world, neither the things of the world.... "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15-16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lessens one affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34-35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing.

1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

b. Solicitation of Funds.

1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds by letter or otherwise for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with the Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the Hawaii District must have the authorization of the District Officers

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Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God

Promotion of all projects of a Missions character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

3) *Improper use of mailing lists.* The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes, not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

c. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions. The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation. A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation to the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Violation of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of Assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the Assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence, which concerns the whole Assembly, shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the Assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

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We **recommend**, therefore that our ministers confer with District Council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have District approval, he shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline. (General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 9)

Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding Certificate of Affiliation, shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies and the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall not belong to interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience. (GC Bylaws Article IX)

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

The General Council of the Assemblies of God and The Hawaii Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

a. Attribution. In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetuating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

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1) Attribution by ministers. Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

2) Attribution by The General Council. No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of The General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God Institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

3) Attribution by local churches. We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on.)

4) *Attribution Accepted.* All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be grandfathered in.

b. Intentional failure to comply. Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetuating a fraud upon the church and the world personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and The General Council disapproves of such practices.

ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Nature and Purpose of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credential Committees

The Executive Presbytery of The General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall be the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial

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discipline of rehabilitation are to be in references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action (GC Bylaws Art X, Section 3)

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of District counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- j. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.
- k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (Bylaws, Article IX, B Section 5, paragraphs d and e)
- l. Violations of ministerial courtesies. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8)
- m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9)
- n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B Section 10)

Notwithstanding the above, when more than 7 years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a District Credentials Committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than rehabilitative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 4. Right of Initiative (General Council Bylaws Article IX)

a. Authority. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials Committees, which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials, also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.

b. Prior Right of District. The officers of the District in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

c. Responsibility of District of Affiliation. If the District in which an

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alleged offense is reported to have occurred, for some reason, cannot take action, the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the District with which the minister is affiliated.

d. Responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee. In the

event the District fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations of or Confession of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

a. Within the Districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Reports or complaint of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (General Council Bylaws, Articles X, Section 3), or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The Superintendent of the District in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the District Superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the District, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the District in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the District with which the minister is affiliated.

1) *Interview with complainants.* The person involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the District office by each complaint describing the alleged offense.

4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate District Officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3 month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

b. Outside the United States. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of the Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the District of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that

BYLAWS – ARTICLE X

individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the District of the minister's affiliation. The Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said District as follows:

1) *Report to District of Affiliation.* At the earliest date after the Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the Superintendent of the District with which the minister is affiliated.

2) *Confidential File.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the Superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved, and shall be presented to the District Superintendent for use in any action the District may take.

3) *Additional Information.* When in the judgment of the Assemblies of God World Missions or the District involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

Section 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation, it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the District Office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the District Officials making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail at the last address furnished to the District, of the charges made in keeping with General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 3.

Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline

a. **District Hearing.** In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the Superintendent of the District in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the Superintendent of the District with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the District Credentials Committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be requested to appear at the hearing in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

b. **Forfeiture of Rights of Accused.** A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of his rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

c. **Discipline.**

1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article

BYLAWS – ARTICLE X

X, Section 3, page 126, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the District Presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit rehabilitation or dismissal. The Credentials Committees shall weigh decisions on:

- (a) The basis of the offense itself;
- (b) The manner and thoroughness of repentance;
- (c) The attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline; and
- (d) The willingness manifested to cooperate.

3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the District Officials determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article X, Section 8 and 9).

d. Surrender of Credentials. Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credential and their current fellowship card to the District office. In the event of dismissal, the District shall forward the credential(s) to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her ministerial credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Section 8. Rehabilitation

Recognizing the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes best be served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for rehabilitation shall apply.

a. Basis. Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Rehabilitation is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse and family, with the results leading to possible restoration in ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the District and General Council Credentials Committee.

b. Procedures and Requirements. The following procedure shall used by the District Presbytery in determining the specific requirements for rehabilitation for the individual minister.

1) *Rehabilitation requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the rehabilitation program as recommended by the District Credentials Committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

BYLAWS – ARTICLE X

a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation.

b) *Terms and conditions.*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for rehabilitation shall continue for not less than 1 year, except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3 paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the bylaws.

c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the District Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established the General Presbytery.

d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another District during the period of rehabilitation.

e) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or District Council official publications.

f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in regular manner.

g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the District Superintendent.

i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of rehabilitation, the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits, such as, the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

j) *Program administration.* The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the District Presbytery.

2) *District progress reports.* The Credentials Committee of the District shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

3) *Completion of rehabilitation.* When the rehabilitation program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

4) *Transfer of information.* A rehabilitation information form for District use, prepared and distributed by the General Secretary, shall be completed by District in which the rehabilitation occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests transfer to a new district. The completed rehabilitation form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister

BYLAWS – ARTICLE X

shall, as a condition of entering a rehabilitation program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her rehabilitation program to be disclosed by the District Superintendent or District Secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the District in which the rehabilitation occurred and The General Council.

c. Eligibility of Previously Dismissed. In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the District shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for rehabilitation have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the Credentials Committee he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation.

Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

a. District Recommendation.

1) *Rehabilitation.* When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, this District shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The District shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the Superintendent of the minister's District of affiliation.

2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The District shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The District shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the Superintendent of the minister's District of affiliation.

b. General Council Credentials Committee Action. The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the District and shall concur if in its judgment the District was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the District for review and reconsideration. The District shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

c. General Council to Hold Information. All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

d. Final Disposition. The General Secretary shall notify the minister and the District(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

Section 10. Right of Appeal

a. Filing of Appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date the notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time the notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the General Superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the Superintendent of the minister's District of affiliation and any other district involved.

b. Consideration of Appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee. The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

1) *Remanding of case to the District.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the Hawaii District for review and reconsideration. The District shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

2) *Denial of appeal.*

a) *Forfeiture of right of appeal.* No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the District Presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the District hearing (see Sections 5, 6, & 7 of this Article).

b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the District.

c. Right of Appeal to the General Presbytery. A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the General Superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the Superintendent of the minister's District of affiliation and any other Districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the District has been advised by the office of the General Secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional

BYLAWS – ARTICLES X, XI

30 days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

a. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the District Council within which territory the applicants resides. The application shall be considered, subject to the approval of the District, in which the termination was made.

b. Minimal Time-lapse for Dismissed Ministers. The minimal time-lapsed required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the District Presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Hawaii Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

c. Rehabilitation Obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for rehabilitation outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

d. Option to Refer to the General Presbytery. The General Council Credentials Committee may hold the matter of a minister's reinstatement in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

e. Reinstatement Fee. When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a \$50.00 reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the District Council and The General Council.

Section 13. Notice

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the District or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the District or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is the minister's responsibility to furnish the District or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

ARTICLE XI. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*

BYLAWS – ARTICLES XII, XIII, XIV

Organizational Manual. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time-to-time may be established to carry out the threefold mission of the church.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be administered by the Board of Administration as approved by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual.* The

General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

ARTICLE XII. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement, we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare their position as a combatant, noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

The General Presbytery shall be empowered to develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as the *General Council Policy Manual.* These documents shall set forth the policies, procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation and structure of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The *General Council Policy Manual* shall be administered by the Board of Administration. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery all proposed additions, deletions, and modification to the *General Council Policy Manual* for approval or amendments by the General Presbytery. The *General Council Policy Manual* shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE XIV. HAWAII ASSEMBLIES OF GOD POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

The District Presbytery shall be empowered to develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as the *Hawaii Assemblies Policy and Procedure Manual.* These documents shall set forth the policies, procedures, duties, responsibilities, guidelines and parameters relating to the operation and structure of the District Presbytery, sections, departments, commissions, and ministries of the Hawaii Assembly of God. The *Hawaii Assemblies of God Policy and Procedure Manual* shall be administered by the District Presbytery. The Sectional Presbyters shall submit annually to the Executive Presbytery all

BYLAWS – ARTICLE XV, XVI

proposed additions, deletions and modifications to the *Hawaii Assemblies Policy and Procedure Manual*. The *Hawaii Assemblies of God Policy and Procedure Manual* shall be made available upon request to all credentialed ministers and churches.

ARTICLE XV. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Bible Institutes and Colleges

a. It is encouraged that Bible institutes and/or colleges be promoted by the District and/or local Assemblies.

b. Extension Schools. Global University and Berean School of the Bible Correspondence Schools shall be promoted, or others of a similar nature.

Section 2. Prisons. Prison ministries shall be fulfilled through the Prison Ministry representative who is appointed by the District Presbytery. Prison ministry shall be encouraged throughout the District as well as local church action.

Section 3. Military. Military ministries shall be fulfilled through the Military Representative, who is appointed by the District Presbytery. Military Ministry shall be encouraged throughout the District as well as the local church.

ARTICLE XVI. CAMPS

Section 1.

A committee shall be established by the District Presbytery as needed.

a. Purpose:

- 1) Launch a fund-raising program with an immediate goal of \$10,000.
- 2) Negotiate for a campsite.
- 3) Give overall direction and guidance to the development of the campsite.

b. This will be a committee of five ministers and laymen. The make-up of the committee shall be determined by the district superintendent.

c. The chairman of this Campsite Committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery. In turn, the chairman will select the members of the committee, with the approval of the District Presbytery.

d. All evaluations, negotiations, commitments and activities of this committee shall be conducted with the approval of and under the supervision of the District Presbytery.

e. Oahu shall be considered the location of the campsite if land is available because of the following reasons:

BYLAWS – ARTICLE XVII, XVIII

- 1) Available conveniences
- 2) Church population
- 3) Potential Community usage

ARTICLE XVII. PROPERTIES

Section 1.

Properties may be held either by the local church board or by The Hawaii Assemblies of God, Inc.

Section 2.

When a church reaches strong self-support, it may request and receive the transfer of ownership to the local church board upon the proper arrangements to care for its indebtedness.

ARTICLE XVIII. FINANCES

Section 1. General Fund

a. A general fund for the support of District activities shall be created by the cooperation of all members of the District. All ordained ministers of the Hawaii District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be required to pay not less than \$80 per month, regardless of source; licensed ministers no less than \$70, special licensed \$60, certified ministers \$60 per month and \$60 for non-credentialed ministers who are senior pastors of Assemblies of God churches (except superannuated ministers).

1) If any minister fails to support the District as required by the Constitution and By-Laws, he shall be requested to explain his reason to the District Presbytery.

2) A minister will lose his vote in sectional and District Council meetings, if they have not paid up their dues, his credential renewal will be in jeopardy.

3) Applicants applying for credentials or for renewal of their District Credential, there shall be a review of their financial record by the Credentials Committee.

b. Each church is strongly recommended to tithe (10%) to the District.

c. All funds received by the Hawaii Assemblies of God shall be deposited in an insured financial institution.

d. Remuneration of the District Officers shall be designated by the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Home Mission Fund

BYLAWS – ARTICLE XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI

a. There shall be a unified Budget Plan.

b. Each church is recommended to send 2% of its gross monthly income to the District Treasurer who will place it in a fund for Home Missions in the District.

Section 3. Special Funds

All funds given for special purposes will be used only for those purposes for which they are taken.

Section 4. Audit

There shall be a financial review, by a person or firm designated by the District Presbytery, the frequency of which shall be at the discretion of the presbytery.

ARTICLE XIX. INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Section 1. Death Benefit Fund.

Every qualified member of the District is encouraged to take advantage of their privilege to enroll in the Metropolitan Group Insurance Program. Application is made through the National Finance Office in Springfield, Missouri.

Section 2. Group Medical and Hospitalization

The District makes provisions for group insurance under the Hawaii Medical Insurance Association (HMSA) and/or Kaiser Foundation.

Section 3. Minister's Benefit Association

All members of the District are encouraged to enroll in the MBA Program. Application is made through Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

ARTICLE XX. PUBLICATION

Section 1. District Periodical

There will be a District paper published for the purpose of disseminating news of District activities and other communications to the District constituency.

Section 2. Other Publications

Other publications may be distributed by the various departments within the District.

ARTICLE XXI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

BYLAWS ARTICLE XXII, XXIII

The regular order of business for the Hawaii District Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the district superintendent
2. Report of the secretary
3. Report of the treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of Officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE XXII. QUORUM

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The Hawaii Assemblies of God District Council shall constitute a quorum, and all Presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of 3 members of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXIII. AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Hawaii District Council. Both notice and copies of the proposed Amendment are to be sent by mail to the constituents and member delegates, at least 30 days prior to the District Council. To amend shall require a "two-thirds of all votes cast" (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition).

APPENDIX

- 1 GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF A LOCAL CHURCH CREDENTIAL
 - A. TITLE: COMMISSIONED MINISTER
- 2 LOCAL CHURCH CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

Guidelines For the Issuance of A Local Church Credential Adopted by the General Presbytery

August 2004
Revised: August 2007



1. The local church credential holder shall be referred to as a commissioned minister.
2. The local church credential is intended for the minister to subsequently become credentialed with the district and General Council, and not be a terminal credential.
3. The local church credential shall be issued by the local General Council affiliated church board upon recommendation by the pastor, consistent with the basic qualifications provided in Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraph a. Salvation, paragraph b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit, paragraph c. Evidence of call, paragraph d. Christian character, paragraph e. Doctrinal position, paragraph k: Marriage status; paragraph l. Annulments, marriage dissolutions, and divorces and paragraph m. Eligibility of women.
4. In considering applicants for a local church credential who have a former spouse living, the local church board must have a reasonable good faith belief that the applicant could be approved at a later time by the district and General Council Credentials Committees for either an ecclesiastical annulment (fraud or deception prior to the marriage), recognition of preconversion divorce (not preconversion separation), or a divorce for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15).
5. The local church board shall certify to the district through a completed form that it has agreed to issue the local church credential consistent with guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and district. The form shall simply provide for the church to state its intention to issue the local church credential consistent with said guidelines. The district shall maintain a roster of all General Council affiliated churches that have filed the completed form with the district.
6. The local church credential is intended to provide a mentoring relationship by the senior pastor or his designee to the local credential holder. During the mentoring process the local church credential holder shall make progress in fulfilling the basic educational requirements for certified minister as provided in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i. Basic education requirements.

7. The local church shall provide the district the name, start date, and renewal date for all those to whom it issues local church credentials. It is recommended that the district establish personal contact and relationship with the local church credential holder as a preparation for him or her becoming credentialed with the General Council. Neither the General Council nor the district council shall publish a roster of those who hold local church credentials.
8. An application form shall be provided by the General Council Credentials Committee and it may be used by the local church for applicants to the local church credential. The local church may use such interview or examination process as it desires. The local church shall design its own credential certificate and renewal forms for its local church credential holders.
9. All those who hold a local church credential should provide the church a Social Security number and be a U. S. citizen or if a non-citizen, be able to give proof that he/she can legally perform work for compensation on the basis of either of the following categories:
 - a. A lawful permanent resident (any category of immigrant visa) who holds a Permanent Resident Card (Green card).
 - b. A non-citizen having an R-1 nonimmigrant temporary work visa or other lawful nonimmigrant temporary work visa.
10. The discipline of local church credential holders shall remain with the local church. The local church is encouraged to use the means of discipline consistent with that given for those who hold a General Council credential.
11. A local church may not issue a credential to a minister who has been dismissed by the General Council, or is currently under discipline by the General Council.
12. A local church may not issue a credential to anyone whose primary residence is outside the United States, or whose ministry is primarily outside the United States.
13. A local church shall conduct a confidential background check for all applicants, utilizing the means prescribed by the General Council Credentials Committee for conducting such a check.
14. A local church credential holder may hold credentials with another credentialing body during a transition time if approved by the local church issuing the credential.
15. A local church credential holder shall tithe to the local church, but shall have no financial obligation to the General Council or district council.
16. A local church credential holder may not hold this form of credential more than 2 years unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution.

Please note:

A local church credential ceases to be valid when the General Council affiliated assembly is reverted or reverts to district affiliated status.



The General Council of the Assemblies of God



LOCAL CHURCH CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

For use by General Council Affiliated churches only.

Note: This form is to be completed by the local church and submitted to the district council office.

The Board of Deacons (Trustees or Elders) of _____
Name of Church
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
City State here in affirms that it will issue local
church credentials consistent with the guidelines given by the General Council and the
_____ District Council; and has entered this action in
the church's board minutes on the _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Signature of Pastor

Date

Secretary of the Board

Date

Printed: September 2004



NOTE: Please see District Secretary for a copy
copy of this certificate.